



August 20, 2008

For more information, contact:
Frances Breyne
Communications Director
785-296-4731

KHPA Board Approves Budget Proposals

The Kansas Health Policy Authority Board yesterday approved the agency's budget proposals for next year. As part of the approval process, the Board discussed plans for next session relating to health reform and strengthening Medicaid.

Highlights of the approved budget include a number of proposals to improve cost-effectiveness in the Medicaid program, such as:

- Helping the elderly and disabled navigate the health care system
- Ensuring access to care for families who are currently eligible for Medicaid
- Automating the drug approval process

The Board additionally approved the expansion of HealthWave, the State Children's Health Insurance Program. However, the expansion requires federal funding, the passage of which has consistently been vetoed by the current administration.

Recognizing the potential for a difficult budget year, the Board also approved a proposal to manage mental health medications. The development of strategies to manage these medications by a committee of mental health providers will increase patient safety and help to ensure the financial sustainability of the Kansas Medicaid program.

According to KHPA Executive Director Marcia Nielsen, "The KHPA has a great responsibility to the people of Kansas. Our proposed budget reflects our mission to develop and maintain a coordinated health policy agenda that combines the effective purchasing and administration of health care with promotion oriented public health strategies. As evidenced by its actions today, the Board takes its role as the steward of state funds very seriously."

For more information on the Kansas Health Policy Authority budget, please visit our website at:
<http://www.khpa.ks.gov/AuthorityBoard/PreviousMeetingInformation.html>

Rm. 900-N, Landon Building, 900 SW Jackson Street, Topeka, KS 66612-1220

www.khpa.ks.gov

Medicaid and HealthWave:
Phone: 785-296-3981
Fax: 785-296-4813

State Employee Health
Benefits and Plan Purchasing:
Phone: 785-368-6361
Fax: 785-368-7180

State Self Insurance Fund:
Phone: 785-296-2364
Fax: 785-296-6995

